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institutions to those for the care of the insane. This is rarely done in country towns. How different may be the effect of such practices is apparent at once. It may even be, that rightly classified and judged, there is no greater proportion of insanity in city than in country after all ; perhaps even the reverse.

The two concluding chapters in Weber's work discuss the general effects of concentration of population ; and present tendencies and remedies. Fees for settlement, agricultural improvements, village amusements, administrative decentralization, the growth of suburban transportation, and the possibilities of widespread distribution of electric power for use in house industry are all passed in review.

The work as a whole is a masterpiece of statistical research and of social analysis. It cannot fail to be of great use to all students engaged in investigation along these lines. The bibliographical details, despite their abundance, evince careful proof reading. The only improvement which could be suggested, would be the adoption of some definite scheme of reference, with full titles of all works cited in a separate list at the end. Typographical errors, such as we note on page 85 are rare ; and good working indexes by author and subject serve to render the material easily accessible.

WILLIAM Z. RIPLEY.

Outline of Practical Sociology, with Special Reference to American Conditions. By CARROLL D. WRIGHT, LL.D., U. S. Commissioner of Labor. New York : Longmans, Green & Co., 1899. 12mo. pp. xxviii + 431.

THE unity of a book may be scientific or artistic. In the former case it proceeds by successive logical steps from point to point until some whole has been described and the intrinsic connection of its parts displayed. In the latter case the unity is vital rather than logical ; the thoughts or actions of some individual or group, real or fictitious, are the informing principle. In a study so inchoate as sociology, no high degree of scientific coherence is to be found, and the unity of the volume before us is almost as much artistic as scientific. It is a simple presentation of the results of a lifetime of investigation and thought upon the problems of modern American society. The motives for inclusion or exclusion of topics are more often personal experience or interest than the requirements of systematic presentation. A

genuine review of the book, therefore, should be a review of the life of which it is an outcome and epitome. It is largely statistical, not because the writer proves that this method should be more extensively employed than his predecessors in sociology have done, but because it is natural for him to reason in figures, as it is for a poet to write in meter. It is hopeful in tone with the buoyant optimism of a man who has made his own way and believes "God's in his heaven, all's right with his world." The writer has done as much as any living American to increase public interest in statistical study of social problems and this work brings into compact, if not connected, form his conclusions upon the population of the United States, its social and political groups, the city, the family, the school, the factory, wealth and poverty, drunkenness and crime.

In the definition of sociology the clear good sense of Commissioner Wright guides him to a conclusion that has been missed by many a more ambitious writer. Sociology is "the study of the origin and development of social institutions" (p. 2). In this definition the words, "origin and development," may be omitted, for they merely describe a method favored by many sociologists, the evolutionary method, the utility of which for the study of social phenomena is much overrated in popular thought. They do not aid in defining the field of study. But if sociology be "the study of social institutions" it is difficult to prove the unity of the subject and so its scientific character. What common characteristics have families, cities, trade unions, schools, factories, and prisons? Are the points of agreement so numerous and fundamental that for a study of them a separate science should be constituted? By the manner of his treatment the author seems to reply in the negative, but by the title of his book in the affirmative, and thus exposes himself to the objection that he is trying to blow hot and cold at once. Sociology is the popular word to conjure with and as a title to this book it covers social institutions so diverse and disconnected that the unity implied in the title is lost from view. Disregarding the claim implied in the title, however, the book is a welcome addition to our popular and elementary books describing social structure and life. It is healthful in tone and will be a corrective to much crude and shallow thinking, especially such as is pessimistic in its attitude towards present society and disposed to seek a way of escape in an increased compulsory subordination of the individual to the state.

Practical Sociology is designed for private reading, or as a text-book for elementary classes, and for both purposes it seems to me on the whole more serviceable than any other book I know. Yet certain faults call for mention in an appreciation of the book. When the writer enters the academic field he is not always sure-footed. He is fond of quoting the saying of "the German Schlosser that 'statistics is history ever advancing'" (p. 8). Perhaps not one American in a million cares a picayune whether this was said by Schlosser or Schlözer, but in fact they were two different men and the saying comes from the latter. But the quotation involves a more serious error. The sentence of Schlözer was "Statistik ist stillstehende Geschichte, Geschichte eine fortlaufende Statistik;"¹ that is, "Statistics is history at rest, history is statistics in progress," obviously a different notion from that in Commissioner Wright's translation. Still further, however, the meaning of the word "Statistik" in Schlözer's time was very different from that of statistics to us. To him it meant a descriptive political science making almost no use of numerical data, but rather, as its name implies, the science of states. Its votaries got into difficulties with the students of political history and Schlözer sought to make peace with a phrase. Political science, he said, is history with change disregarded, history is political science with the element of change introduced. His effort failed, but his phrase survived. It may have originated in Huder's saying twenty years earlier that political geography is history at rest and history geography in motion and it may have suggested to Freeman his "History is past politics; politics is present history," but it never meant the statistics in which our author and his readers are interested.

Errors of this sort, however, are very infrequent in the volume. A more common kind are those springing from an uncritical acceptance of authorities. The writer has worked over very wide fields and cannot have tilled deeply in all. Thus he says that the population of the coast swamps and the Mississippi alluvial region consists mainly of negroes (p. 29). The census volume so states, but a scrutiny of the tables, from which the inference is made (*Eleventh Census, Population*, I, xlvi *et seq.*), shows that whites compose more than half the population in the coast swamps. Again, the statement that the population of the country is increasing at all altitudes (p. 30) is drawn from the census volumes, but the table there found (*idem*, p. xlviii) shows that the population

¹ I have not been able to find a copy of the original, but both John and Meitzen give the sentence as quoted.

living between 9000 and 10,000 feet above sea level, *i. e.*, in Nevada and eastern California, decreased sharply between 1880 and 1890.

A few errors have been noticed so serious that one has to suspect they betray the hand of a subordinate whose work has not been reviewed and corrected with the requisite care. Thus the fact that in 1890, among the persons over twenty, there were about 377,000 more married men than married women, is explained by the influx as immigrants of married men, who have left their wives in the mother country (p. 153). One need not go so far to sea for an explanation and overlook the fact that among the persons under twenty, there are nearly three hundred thousand more married women than married men. That is, the number of women under twenty married to men over twenty exceeded the number of men under twenty married to women over twenty by 298,648, which accounts very simply for nearly four fifths of the excess of husbands in the population over twenty.

These are but minor and infrequent defects. The book is strong in its conception of sociology, in its instinctive emphasis upon statistical methods, in its spirit and temper, and in its successful maintenance of a happy mean between abstract profundity and feeble superficiality. It should lead many to go further in the subject and thus secure its highest end.

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Washington.

The Cost of Living as Modified by Sanitary Science. By ELLEN H. RICHARDS. New York : John Wiley & Sons, 1899. 12mo. pp. 121.

THIS book consists of nine talks on the relation of domestic economy to social welfare. The author is speaking to that portion of the community dependent upon incomes of \$1500 to \$3000. They are told that household management today is, among all classes, both aimless and extravagant; that because of this waste in the center of consumption—the home—the social gains from improvements in production are largely neutralized and dissipated. Changes for the better are not to be expected from the wealthier classes who have no needs, nor from the masses who have no choice. Therefore the middle class is given the message, in the hope, that when convinced that it is to their interest as a class, they will set the example for the less fortunate